

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF ATMOS)	CASE NO.
ENERGY CORPORATION FOR AN)	2021-00214
ADJUSTMENT OF RATES)	

ORDER

On December 12, 2021, Atmos Energy Corporation (Atmos) filed a letter requesting to postpone the formal hearing scheduled to begin on December 14, 2021. Atmos also proposed that, as an alternative to rescheduling the hearing, that Commission Staff and the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, by and through the Office of Rate Intervention (Attorney General), submit an additional round of discovery, followed by briefs filed by Atmos and the Attorney General. Atmos explained that, if the Commission determined that a hearing should be held after briefing, then the hearing could be rescheduled at that time. Atmos stated that the Attorney General agreed with Atmos's proposal. The Commission will treat the letter as a motion.

As a basis for the motion, Atmos explained that due to significant property damage and loss of life from an extreme weather event in Atmos's service territory on December 10, 2021, conducting the hearing as scheduled would adversely impact Atmos's ability to continue safe operation of its system and restore service as quickly as possible. Atmos noted that Kentucky Governor Beshear declared state of emergency on December 11, 2021, due to the impact of the extreme weather event.

Having reviewed the motion and being otherwise sufficiently advised, the Commission concurs with Atmos that conducting the hearing as scheduled would adversely impact Atmos's ability to quickly restore service and provide safe, adequate, and reasonable service. Balancing the need for a robust record upon which the Commission must base its decision and the need for Atmos to restore service, the Commission also concurs that conducting additional discovery and permitting the parties to file briefs is a reasonable alternative to rescheduling the hearing at this time. After the parties' briefs have been filed, the Commission will determine whether the hearing should be rescheduled or this matter may be determined based on the written record. For the above reasons, the Commission finds that Atmos's motion to postpone the hearing scheduled on December 14, 2021, and to permit additional discovery and briefing should be granted.

The Commission will issue an amended procedural schedule by separate Order.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. Atmos's motion to postpone the hearing is granted.
2. The December 14, 2021 hearing is continued generally.

By the Commission



ATTEST:


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